

Materials I Need:









Legend:


-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade
-  = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade


Memory Work:


“But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says, ‘God opposes the proud⁹⁰ but gives grace to the humble.’” James 4:6

 **Hook:**

- Making Plans (Discussion).**  We all make plans. We need to have plans in order to keep our lives organized and to use our time efficiently. Spend some time talking with the students about the different kinds of plans we make. Bring in examples of day planners, calendars, blueprints, schedules, meal plans, assignment planners, etc. We might plan things like our daily or weekly activities, homework, meals, making plans for college, vacations, or retirement. We might plan to meet our friends after school, or to have a bake sale on the weekend. As Christians, we must be good stewards of our time. However, we must learn to hold our time loosely and acknowledge God as the master planner. If we make plans without considering the will of God, we are being selfish. We need to live humbly and dependently on God and rely on His sovereignty. This morning we will listen to James as he warns us about what happens when we make plans with selfish motives.
- What About the Future? (Discussion).** ,  Use the whiteboard to write down the students' ideas of where some people look and what they depend on for the future. These might be things such as money, education, job, family, or friends. What about fortunetelling, astrology and horoscopes, numerology, and science? What do the students think about this? What does the Bible say?
- The Story of Sel Fish and Bee Humble (Story).**  This morning we will read a story about a couple of friends who lived their lives totally different from each other. Have students read the story and color the pictures on **JAM04.GF1**. Talk about which life would be more pleasing to God.
- Cause of Quarrels (Coloring Page/Discussion).** ,  Copy **JAM04.GF2 Pg. 1** onto white cardstock and give to each student. Have the students color the two arguing people. Discuss why people quarrel, how often they may quarrel, and what they may quarrel about. Tell them that today they will hear what God has to say about it. This activity can be continued in the LOOK puzzle, “What Should I Do When a Quarrel of Fight Begins?”
- Life without Quarreling or Arguing (Discussion).** ,  Ask the students if they have ever argued with their brother or sister, parents, or friends. What do they argue about? Have they ever experienced feelings of jealousy or envy? How do they solve the arguments or keep them from happening? What makes them argue? This morning we will learn why we should not quarrel with each other. What would life be like if no one ever quarreled with anyone else?

 **What is Pride and Humility? (Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Have you ever heard of the words “pride” or “proud”? What do these words mean? What do you think God thinks about pride or someone who is proud? Ask the students to give their responses. Did you know that God hates certain things? And did you know that one of the things God absolutely hates is pride? Today we’ll learn more about this sin and how we can avoid it.

 **A Test for Humility or Pride (Activity).** 🦋, 🦋 As the students come in, set up a game (i.e., a Nintendo 64 game or a Sony PlayStation game that is suitable for your age group! (Please, no violent games!). Have it ready for those who arrive first. Let them play with it and then leave the students alone. If there are quarrels and arguments, allow them as long as they don’t get out of hand. See if the students share and are kind to each other. **Debrief:** Bring the students together around the game, and ask them to sit down. Ask them, “Were there any arguments about who could play this game this morning?” If there were, then ask them a second question, “Why were there arguments?” Have several of the students answer. If there weren’t any, then encourage the students and affirm that they did the right thing by sharing and not quarreling. Today, we’re going to learn what causes fighting and arguments. The Bible calls it “pride.” Spell the word on the board with a really big letter “i” in the middle. Guess what the focus of pride is? That’s right! It’s “I, me, and mine!” We are proud when the focus of our eyes is on ourselves, not others.

 **Two Paths: Pride and Humility (Role Play).** 🦋, 🦋 Ask two teachers to do a role-play. One person will be the proud person and the other will be humble. Center the skits around daily activities in which the students would be involved (i.e., sharing toys at home, standing in line at school, being the first to grab donuts at church). Then ask the class which person acted in a right way and which didn’t. Discuss the issue of pride with the students. Explain to them what it is and how God hates it. Tell them that the person who is humble is the person who is favored in God’s eyes.



Book: **Presentation Ideas -**

Bible Adventure –

You can’t read the book of James and not see the major theme--true faith will make itself known through good works. These works are not ones we manufacture on our own. They are spiritual fruits that God produces in our lives when we possess the root of faith. All through James’ letter to Jewish believers, he tells his friends that there are certain ways a person with true faith will behave. If a person does not behave in this way, he needs to take a close look at his heart to see if he is really saved. Let’s do a quick review of the tests James gives us.

First, when trials and temptations come, a true believer will not quit, and he will allow the trial to make his faith even stronger. Second, a person of faith will not favor one person above another in order to gain something for himself but will see each person as uniquely made by God. Third, a child of God will have control of his tongue and will not allow it to do its destructive work.

In chapter 4, James tells us of another way true faith shows itself in a person’s life--through humility and unselfishness. This is the test of pride. Pride can lead to conflicts with God and with others. James opens chapter four with the question: “What causes fights and quarrels among you?” It seemed that some of the people who claimed to be Christians were always fighting and arguing with each other. It had gotten so bad that some of them actually hated each other (4:2).

So what caused the fights and quarrels? James answers that question with a second question: “Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?” That’s a pretty straight answer--we fight and argue because we are selfish! We see something we want and if anyone gets in the way, watch out! We ask God for it, but we don’t get it because God knows our reasons for wanting it are not right. This kind of attitude reveals what is in an unbelieving heart. Instead of coming to God humbly and totally dependent, unbelievers ask for something because it will fulfill their own pleasure, not God’s. They don’t desire God above everything else, nor do they care about what He wants. James writes that this kind of heart is a heart that wants friendship with the world and all that it has to offer (4:4). A friend of the world is an

enemy of God! Jesus teaches us that we cannot serve two masters. We will serve one and hate the other. There is no way we can love God and the world at the same time!

A true Christian should not be selfish and proud but humble before God. We are not able to do this on our own--we need God's help. James says, "But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble'" (4:6). That grace is what gives us the ability to let God be the boss, to run away from sin, to come close to God, and clean up our hearts (4:8-10). An unbeliever does not have these spiritual fruits of faith because God's grace has not been given to him.

Not only does pride cause people to be selfish, it also causes them to be self-sufficient. This is the false idea that people can live and make their plans as if God doesn't exist--what foolishness! James says, "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money'" (4:13). This is the height of pride--to choose to ignore the fact that God made us and allows us to live and to work, that He made everything, and it is His to do with as He chooses. These people are so self-centered that they cannot see that it is God who controls their lives.

James is quick to correct this kind of thinking. We do not know what will happen tomorrow. We have no control over our future. Compared to God, who has always been and will always be, our short lives are like a vapor, a puff of smoke that quickly disappears. Instead of arrogantly boasting about what we're going to do tomorrow or the next day, true Christians will be mindful of God's plans and submit themselves to them. Our attitude will be like the example James gives: "If God wills, we will live until tomorrow and do what He wants us to do" (4:15). James writes that boasting about our own plans and how we will carry them out, without any regard to God's right to rule, is evil.

It's easy for us to make the mistake of going ahead of God in our plans, isn't it? We can convince ourselves that having our own selfish way is the best way. You may have fought with someone else because you thought you were right and wanted your own way. You may have made plans to do something without even thinking about God's rule in your life. But if doing these kinds of things is a pattern in our lives, James warns us that we are being proud, and the proud person will always lose because God opposes pride.

The marks of pride are plain for all to see—a character that clashes with others and an attitude that says, "I don't need God." These are the marks of an unbeliever who has no desire to be humble and admit his need for God in his life, nor any desire to live his life in obedience to God's Word. The only way we can escape our pride and our selfish desires is to be humble before a mighty God. When His approval becomes the most important thing to us, we will seek His desires and not our own. We will realize more and more how much we need to depend on Him for everything. Take the test of pride. Is pride ruling you, causing you to be God's enemy? If so, you need to come to the place where you no longer desire the things the world has to offer more than you desire God. You need to give up trying to run your own life and understand that only God has that right. When you come to that place of humility, then God's Holy Spirit can change you from the inside out. You will no longer be God's enemy but His friend.

Aim Questions:

- 1. What is the test that James gives us in chapter 4?** *The test of pride.*
- 2. In what does pride and selfishness result?** *Strife and self-sufficiency.*
- 3. What's wrong with being a friend of the world?** *A friend of the world is an enemy of God (James 4:4).*
- 4. What is the only way we can be humble?** *By God's grace (James 4:6).*
- 5. What is self-sufficiency?** *Living as if God doesn't exist (James 4:13.)*



Look:



What Should I Do When a Quarrel or Fight Begins? (Puzzle/Worksheet). How should a person respond when a quarrel or fight begins?

Puzzle: Each student will need **JAM04.GF2 Pgs. 1 & 2** copied onto white cardstock
coloring crayons
scissors

If students have not already colored **JAM04.GF2 Pg. 1** from the HOOK coloring page activity, "Cause of Quarrels," they may do so now along with **JAM04.GF2 Pg. 2**. Next, have them cut out the puzzle pieces from **JAM04.GF2 Pg. 2** and mix them up. Each student should fit the pieces back together on top of the picture of the sin of quarreling (**JAM04.GF2 Pg. 1**), using the outside frame as a guide. Tell them that only God's Word can help us make the right choices. Send the puzzle home in a small plastic bag.

Worksheet: Fill in the blanks of the verses listed on **JAM04.GF2 Pg. 3**. Color the stoplight with the correct colors.



The James Jumble (Worksheet/Game). Use this game as an individual table worksheet or as a whole class activity. For the individual study, each student will need scissors and **JAM04.GF3** copied onto white paper. Have students cut out the lettered tiles. The object of the game is to line up the tiles in the proper order to reveal the phrase. (Hint: It's the last part of today's Bible memory verse: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.") The students can race to complete the verse. You may want to award prizes for the fastest completion. For the class option, make two sets of **JAM04.GF3** by handwriting each tile onto 8½" x 11" paper. Make sure that you leave spaces as on the small tiles. Divide the class into two teams, mix up their jumble cards, and have them work to un-jumble James the quickest.



Holding Our Lives Loosely (Craft). One of the main factors in pride is self-sufficiency. This is the false notion that a person can live and make plans without God. In our Bible Adventure, we heard about the self-sufficient man who ignored God in his plans to go to this city or that, and to carry on business and make money. God is in control of all things even the minute details of our lives. We do not know what tomorrow will hold for us. It's O.K. to make plans, but we must hold loosely to those plans, as we trust God for His sovereign control over our lives.

Each student will need:

- 1 small round balloon
- 1 pair of surgical gloves
- 1 piece of construction paper or cardstock
- 1 label from **JAM04.GF4**
- 2 bag ties
- tissue
- markers
- glue

In this craft, the balloon represents a person's life. After the students blow up their balloons, they can be gently colored with markers. The students can write things that they might like to see happen in their lives (i.e., marriage, family, college, career, etc.). The gloves should then be stuffed with the tissues so that the gloves are fuller and have dimension. Secure the openings with bag ties. Have students glue the gloves to the piece of construction paper or cardstock and the balloon to the gloves. Glue the label to the bottom of the page. This should be a rather obnoxious attention grabber for the center of the kitchen table.



Hold It Loosely (Demonstration). Review and demonstrate the principle of holding our lives loosely by putting a glob of Jell-O in each of the student's hands. If the student squeezes the Jell-O, it will ooze out of his grip. If he holds it loosely, it will remain in the palm of his hand. Option: Use this idea as a snack-time event.

Passage Review Questions (Worksheet). This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **JAM04.GF5**.

Chutes and Ladders (Game). 🦋 Play this game with the students, focusing on the verses as they make their way to the finish. You will need **JAM04.GF6** copied onto colored cardstock for each table group and a game piece for each student.



Took:

Hold It Loosely Relay Race (Game). 🦋, 🦋 Form teams and make lines for relay races. Give each team an inflated balloon. The object of the game is for the students to run down and back, keeping the balloon in the palm of their open hands. They may not squeeze or hold the balloon tightly. If the balloon falls to the floor they must go back and start over again.

“Stop, Yield, Go to God” (Craft). 🦋, 🦋 James tells us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” This should be a reminder to us when we feel our pride taking hold of our tongue and our actions. As a reminder of the proper steps that we need to take, look to this little stop sign and “Stop being proud with wrong words and actions, go to God in prayer, think about God’s Word, then be humble and yield to the Holy Spirit.” This may be hung from a bedroom light fixture or above the door as a reminder that God is sovereign, not us.

Items needed: 8½” x 11” sheet of brown cardstock

JAM04.GF7 Pg. 1 stop signs copied onto red paper

JAM04.GF7 Pg. 2 yield signs copied onto yellow paper

JAM04.GF7 Pg. 3 go signs (circles) copied onto green paper

JAM04.GF7 Pg. 4 verses and instructions copied onto white paper

(1) 24” piece of yarn

glue

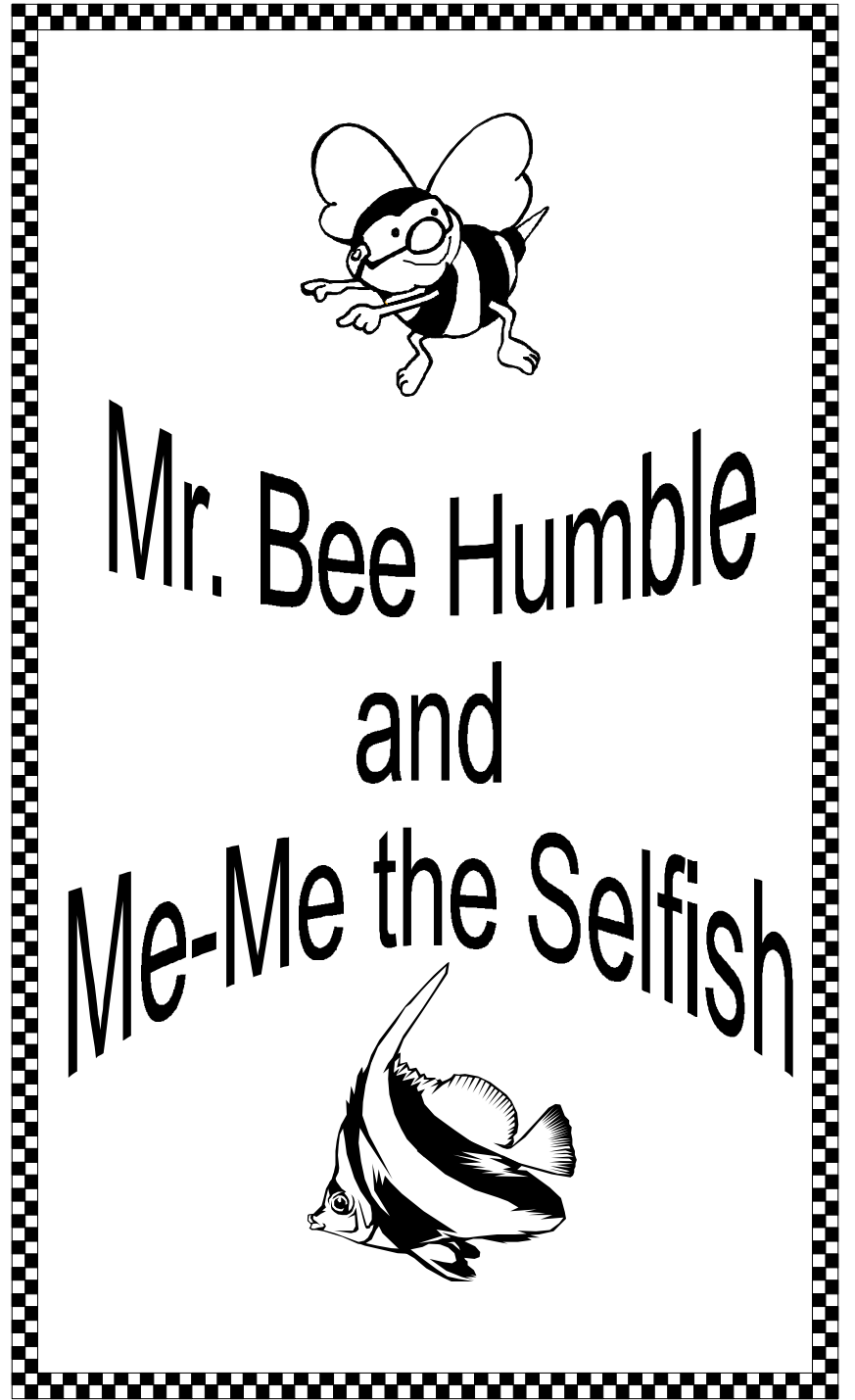
hole punch

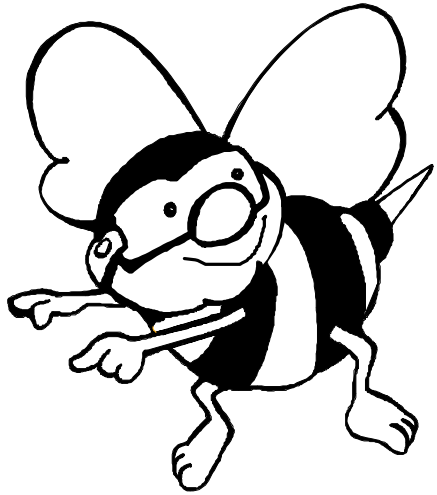


Fold 8½” x 11” sheet into a rectangular prism (1-inch tab first), then three times at 2½ inches each. Glue 1-inch tab to inside of opposite end of paper to create a prism. On each side of the prism, glue the three different sign shapes to create a stoplight (stop on top, yield in middle, green on bottom). Glue the verse and instructions below the green lights, one on each side. Punch holes at the top of the stop sign diagonally on opposite sides. Thread yarn through and tie together.

No Quarreling Button (Craft). 🦋, 🦋 Have students make and decorate their own “No Quarreling” button. Copy **JAM04.GF8** onto white cardstock and cut apart. Students may color these with markers or crayons. Encourage them to take these home and paste them on their bathroom mirror so that they can be reminded daily not to argue. They may want to make extras for their friends and family.

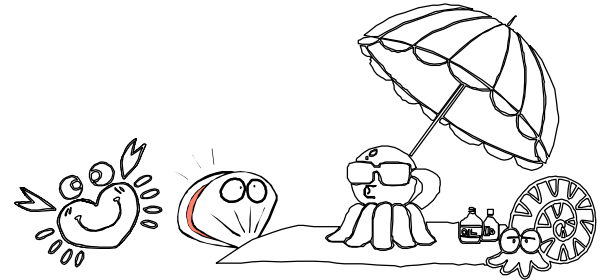
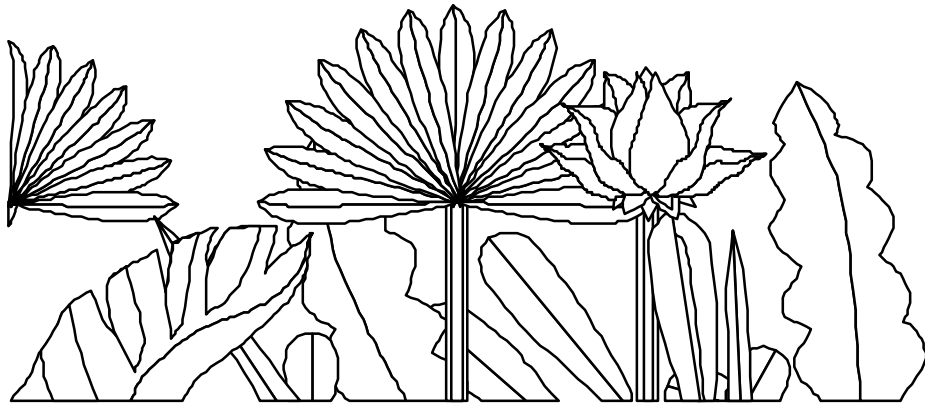
Making Plans for the Week (Craft). 🦋 Duplex copy **JAM04.GF9 Pgs. 1 & 2** onto cardstock. Allow students to color and decorate their calendars to use this next week. As the students fill in their planned activities, remind them to consider the sovereign will of God in everything that they do. Encourage them to trust in God’s best for them and to remain flexible in following His leading. They should be willing to give in to His will for them.





Mr. Bee Humble

*In my garden is Mr. Bee Humble,
And I want you to meet him today.
His buzzing is a pleasant rumble
And doing God's will is his way.*

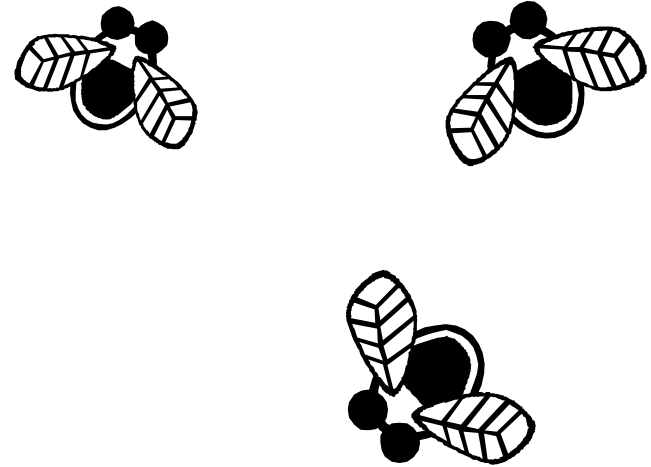


*So don't be a Me-Me without any friends.
To God confess your selfish ways.
He will cleanse your heart of sin
And fill your heart with praise.*





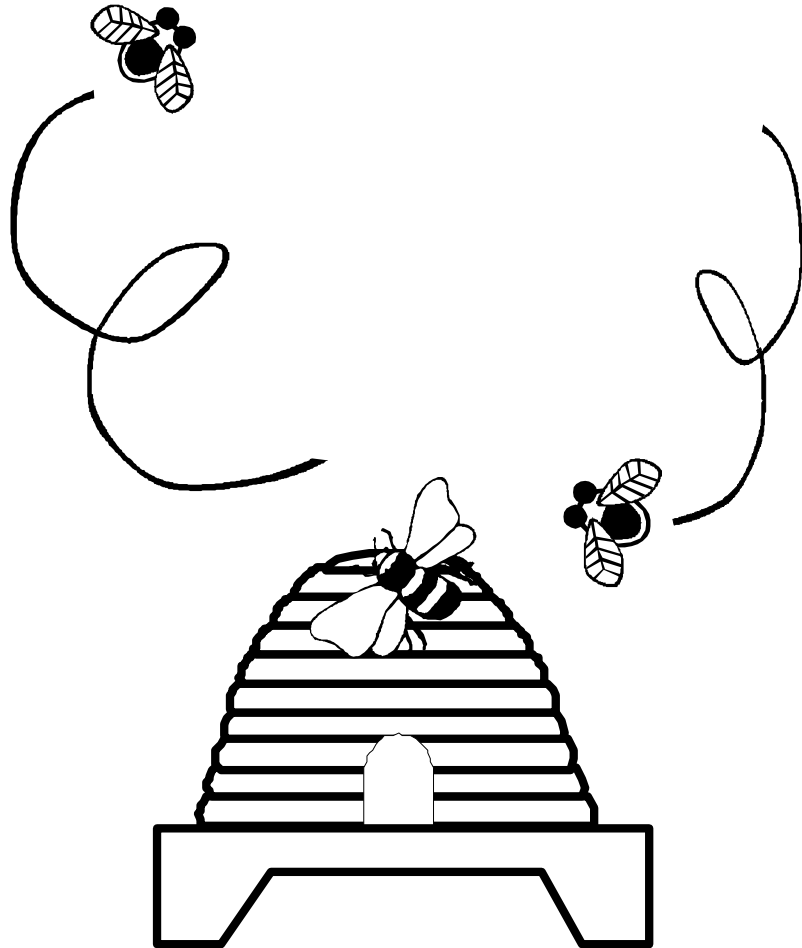
*Me-Me is someone who is selfish and sad.
She likes to argue and fight.
The ripples she leaves only make others mad
As she gobbles up everything in sight.*



*His thoughts are always of others.
He doesn't quarrel and fight.
He shares with his sisters and brothers,
And wants to do what is right.*



*He hides God's Word in his heart
So that he'll be helpful and kind.
Be a Mr. Bee Humble from the start,
And life can be sweet you will find.*

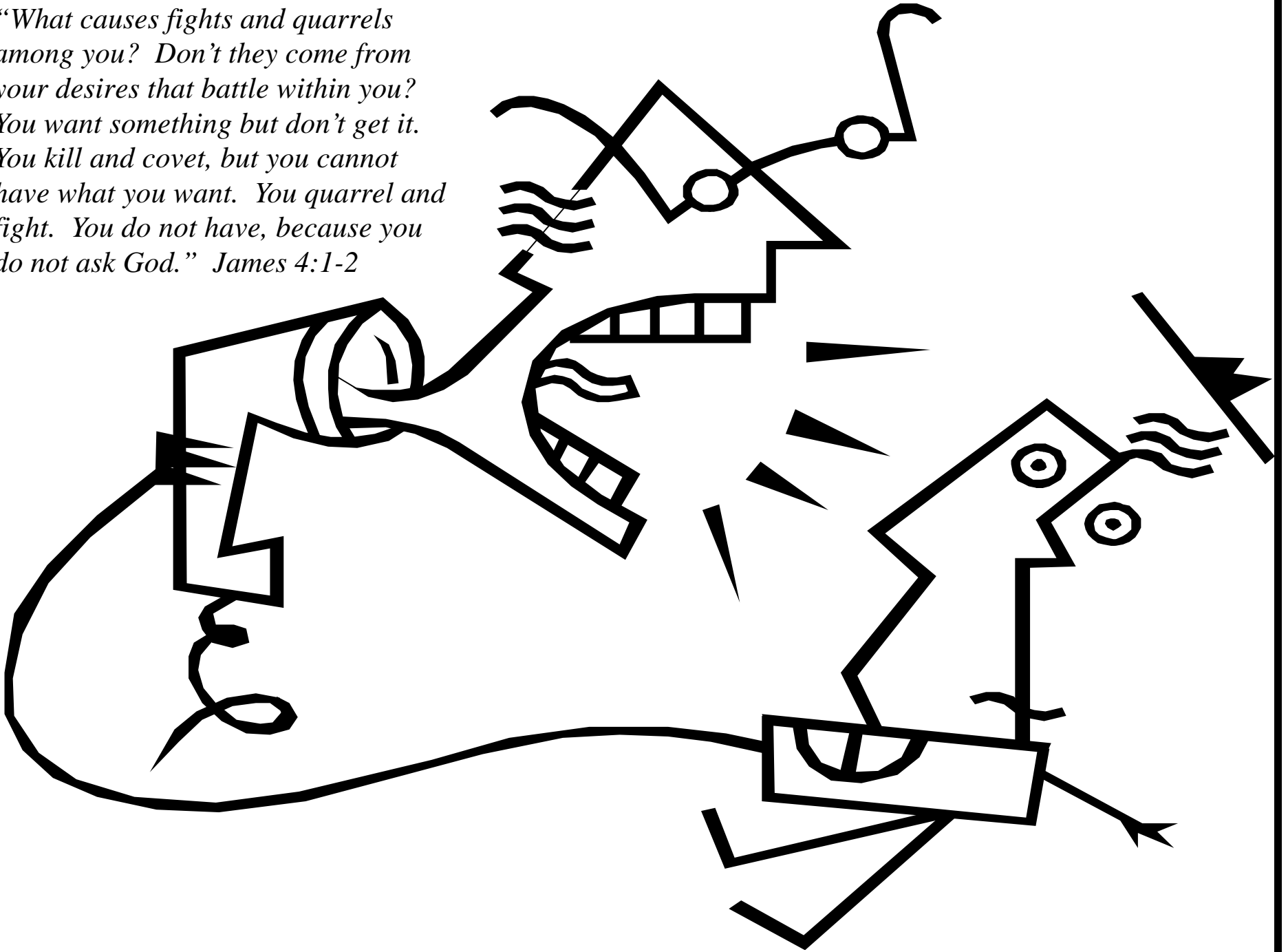


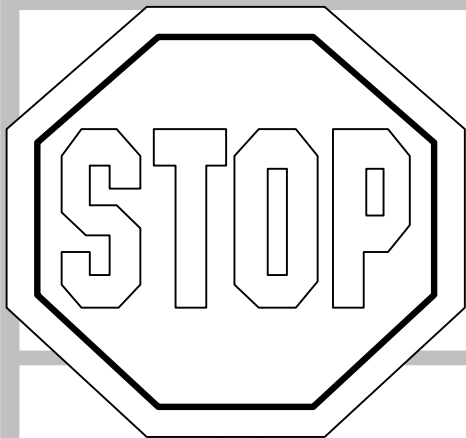
Me-Me the Selfish

*Meet Me-Me the Selfish
Me-Me wants things her way.
She only wants what is her wish
And when she can't have it, swims away!*



“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.” James 4:1-2

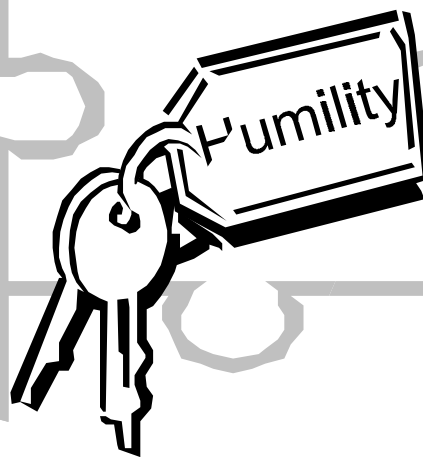




"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." James 3:17

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3



"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
Colossians 3:13

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26

YIELD

"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."
Matthew 5:44

**GO to God
in Prayer**

What Should I Do When a Quarrel or Fight Begins?

Fill in the blanks of the verses listed below.

“Pride only _____
quarrels, but wisdom is
_____ in those who
_____.”

Proverbs 13:10

“_____ will save you
from the ways of _____
men, from men whose
_____ are perverse...”

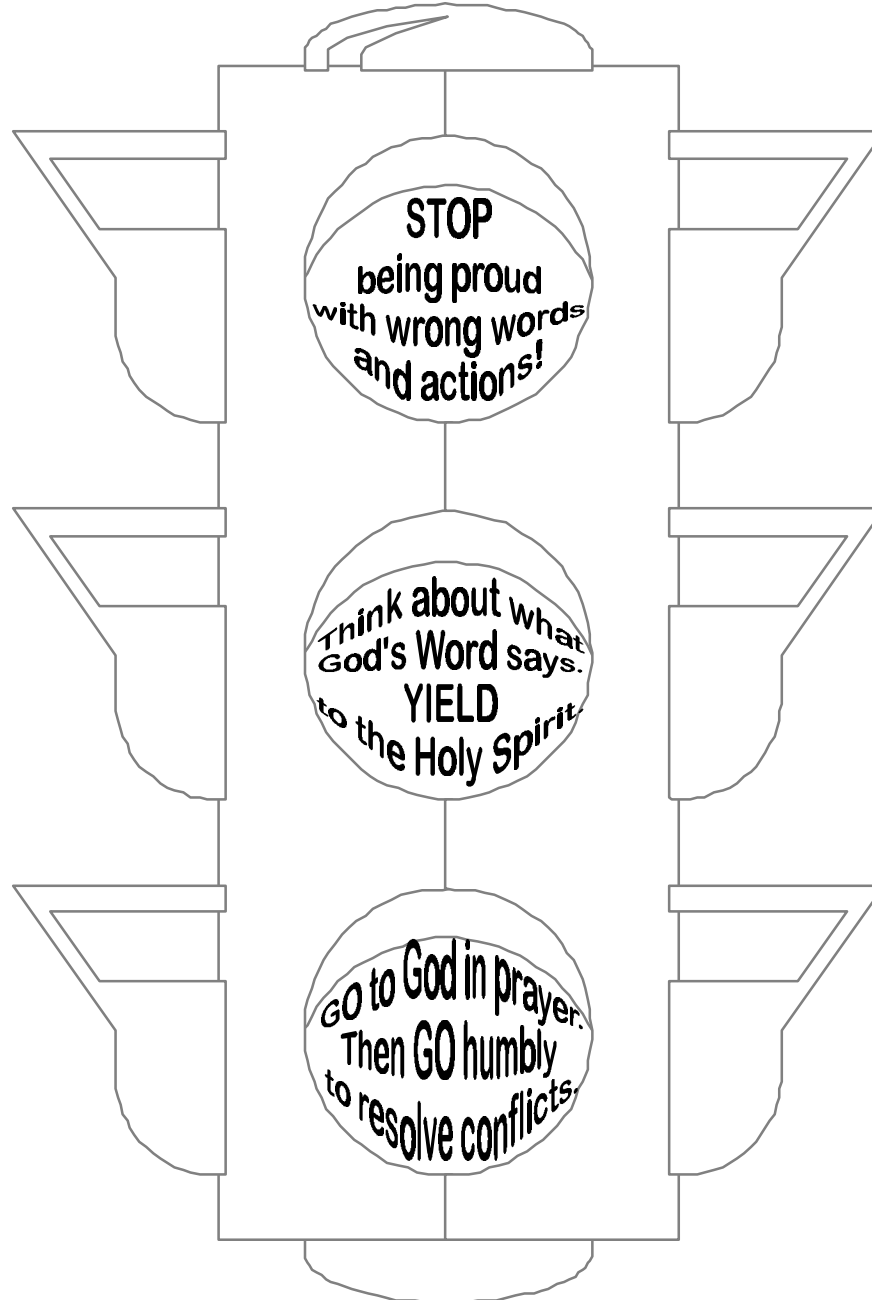
Proverbs 2:12

“Do _____ out of
_____ ambition or
vain conceit, but in humility
consider others _____
than _____.”

Philippians 2:3

“_____ with each
other and forgive whatever
_____ you may have
against one another. Forgive
as the Lord _____ you.”

Colossians 3:13



“When _____ comes,
then comes _____.
But with _____
comes _____.”

Proverbs 11:2

“Those who _____ according
to the _____ nature
have their _____ set on
what that nature _____;
but those who live in
accordance with the
_____ have their
_____ set on what the
_____ desires.”

Romans 8:5

“Who is _____ and
understanding among you?
Let him _____ it by his
good _____, by _____
done in the _____ that
comes _____ wisdom.”

James 3:13

The James Jumble

Arrange the tiles below in the proper order to reveal today's message. You may cut them out or just copy them into the appropriate squares below.

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| GIV | HUM | JA | PRO | GRA | 4 : | THE |
| CE | 6 | GOD | BLE | POS | MES | UD, |
| THE | BUT | ES | OP | ES | TO | |

Hint: The message is part of today's memory verse.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |



Passage Review Questions

James 4

What does James tell us is the reason for not having what we want? 4:2c

What happens when we ask with the wrong motives? 4:3a

Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an _____ of God. 4:4b

God opposes the _____ but gives _____ to the _____. 4:6b

To whom are we to submit? 4:7a

Who are we to resist? 4:7b

What will happen when we do this? 4:7c

To whom are we to come near? 4:8a

What are we to do before the Lord? 4:10a

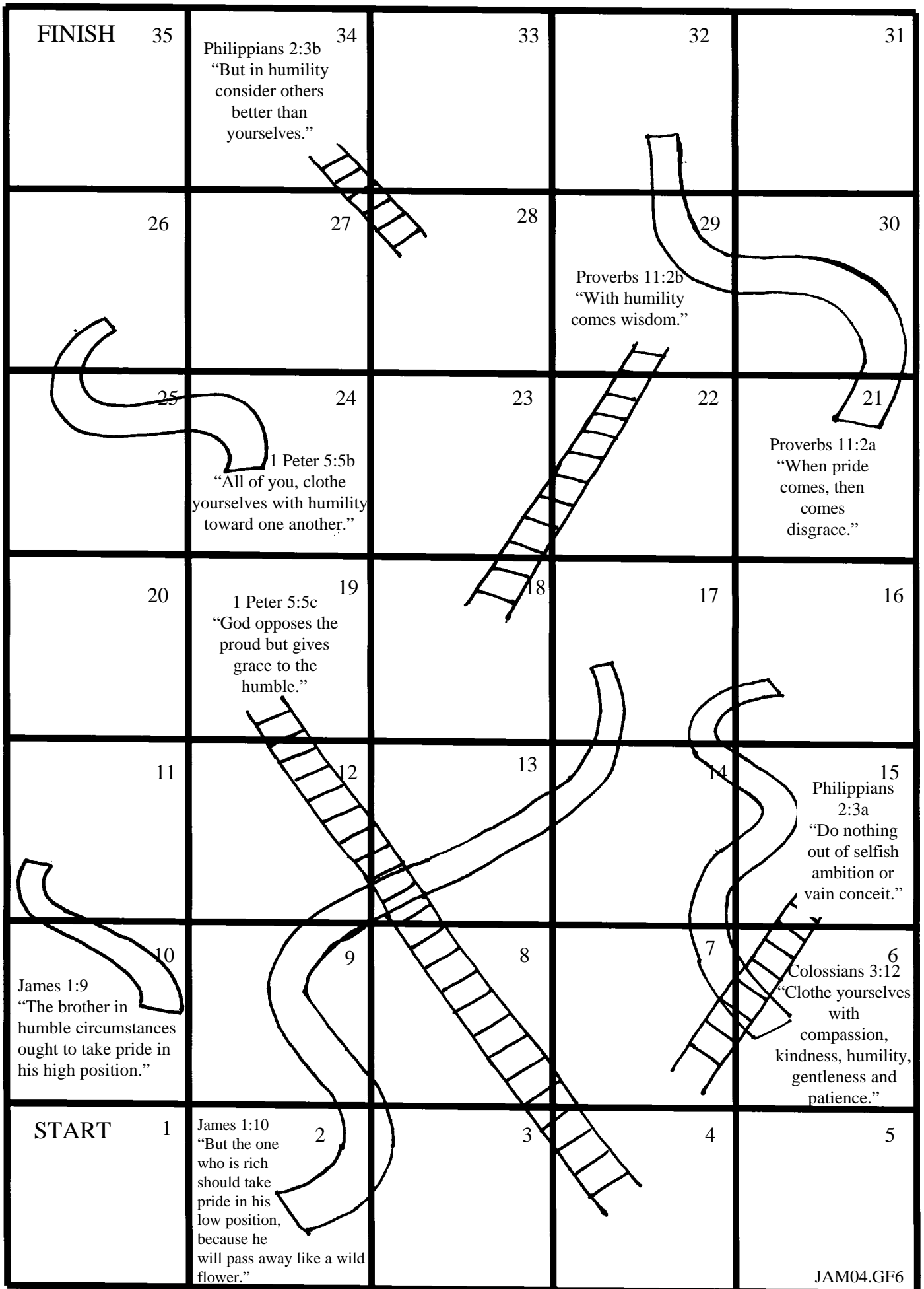
What will the Lord then do? 4:10b

What are we not to do to one another? 4:11a

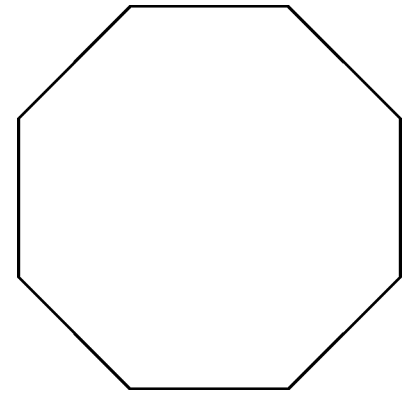
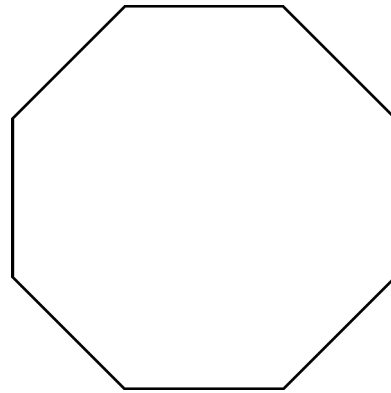
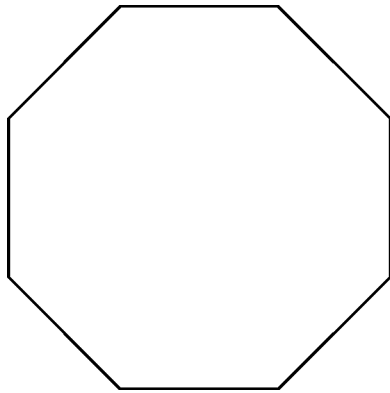
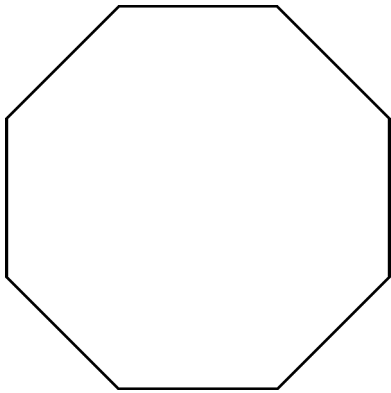
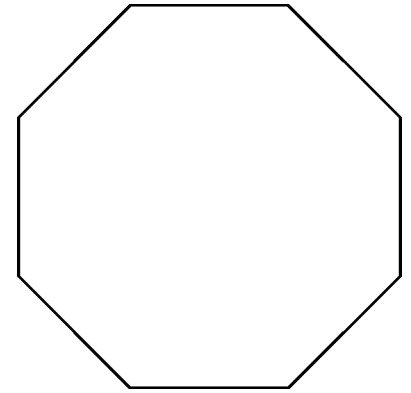
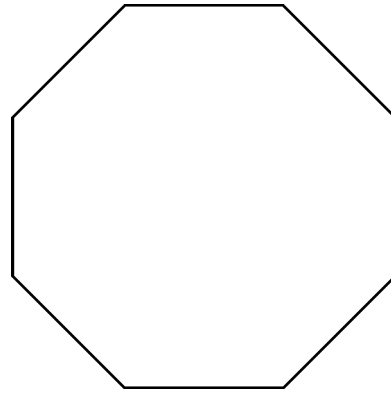
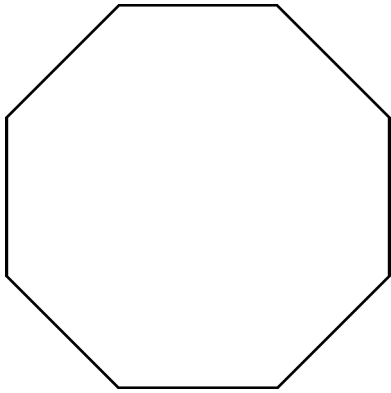
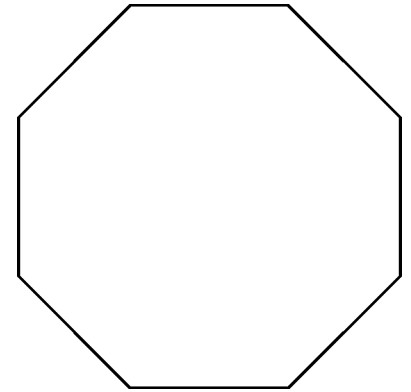
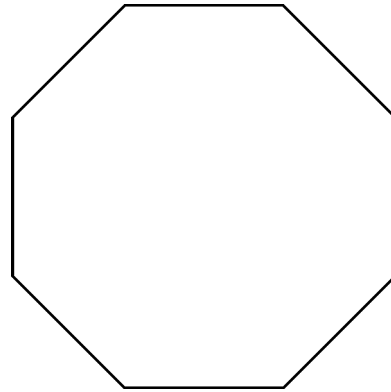
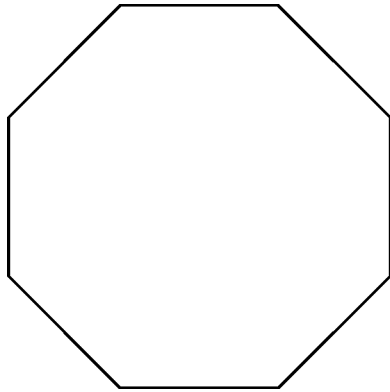
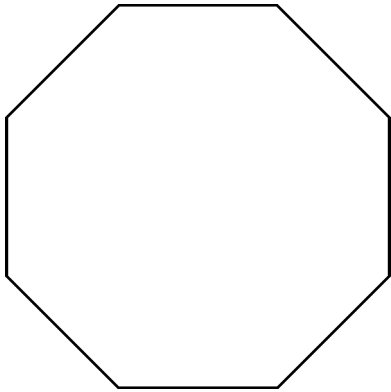
What are we not to boast about? 4:13-15

Why? 4:16

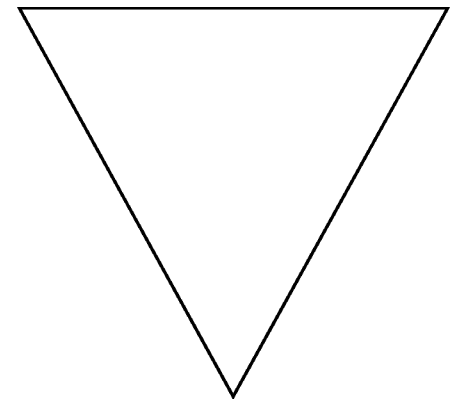
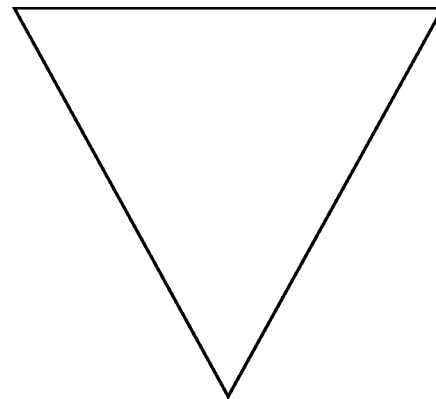
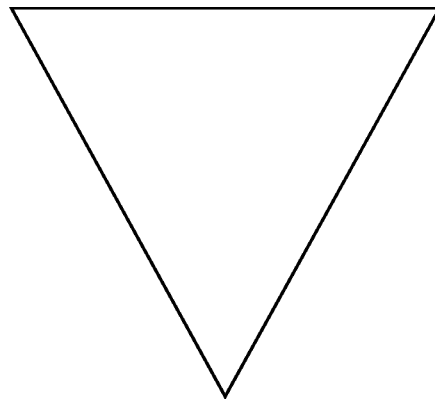
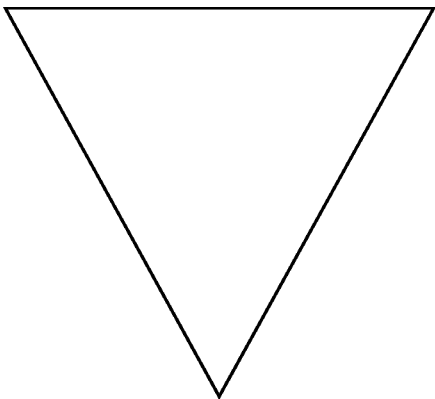
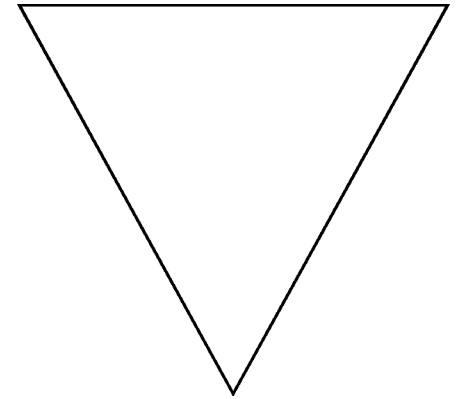
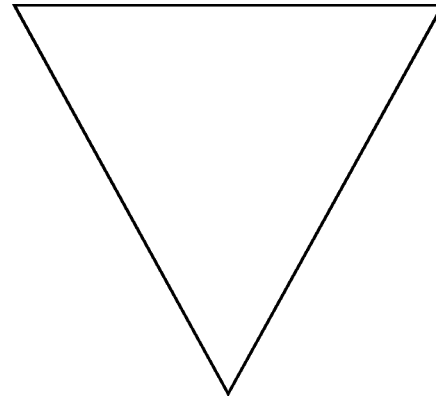
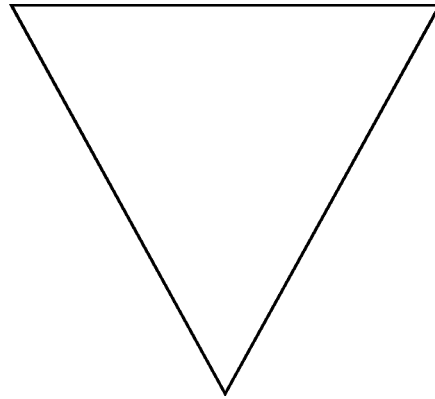
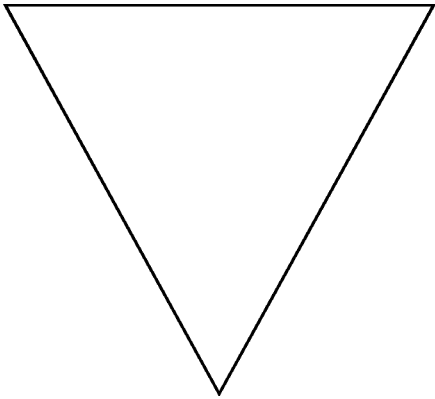
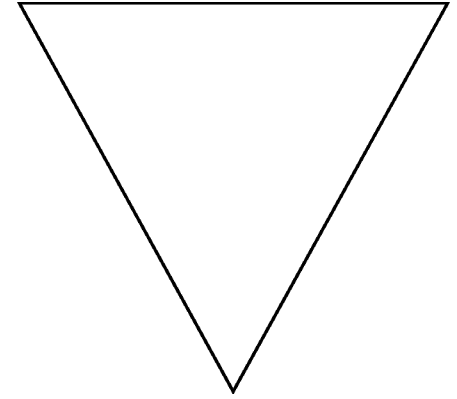
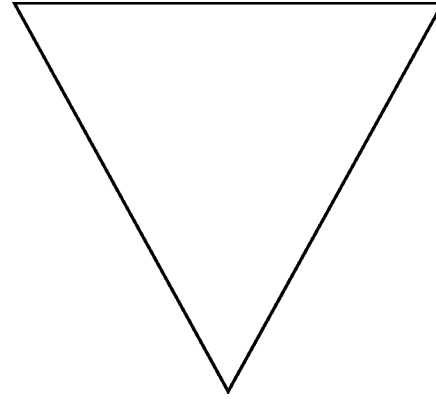
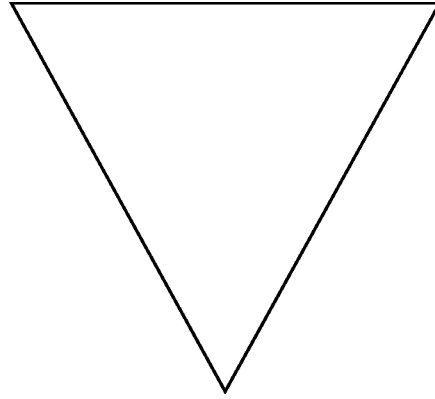
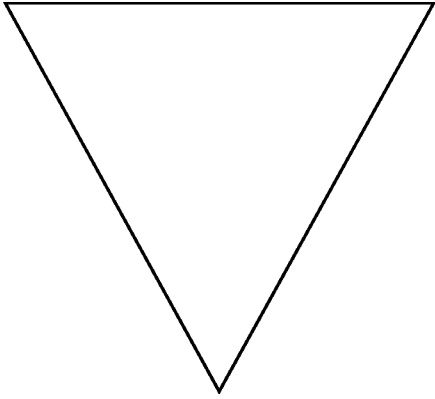
“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, _____.” 4:17



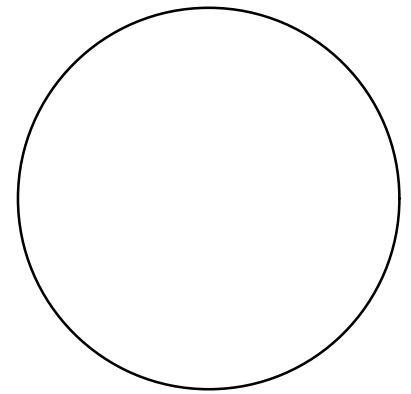
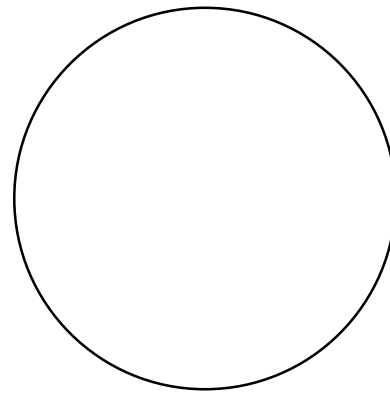
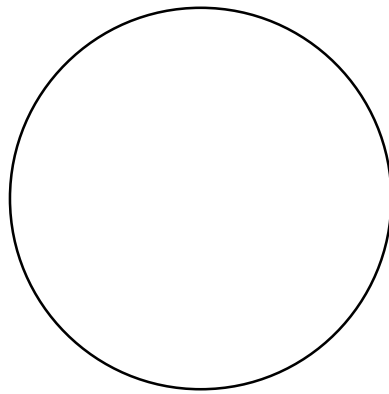
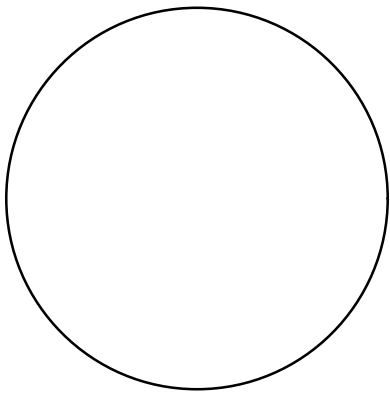
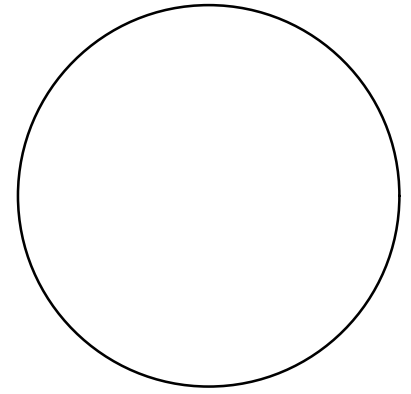
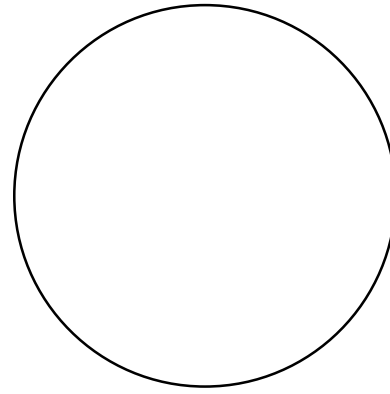
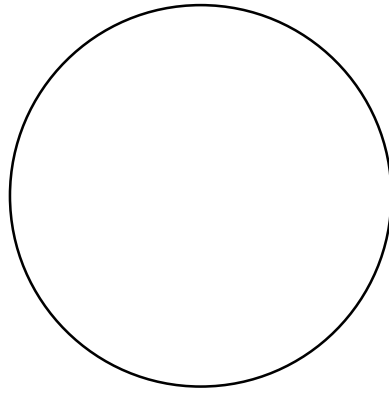
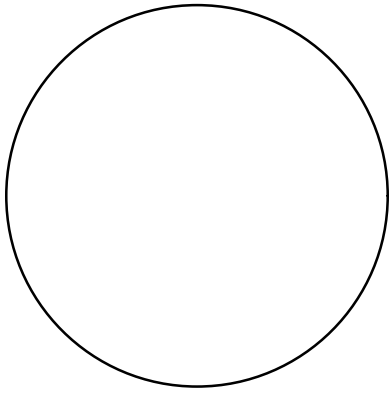
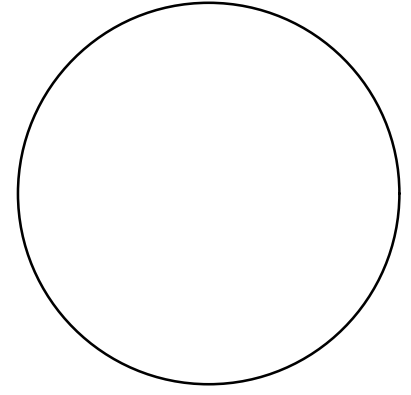
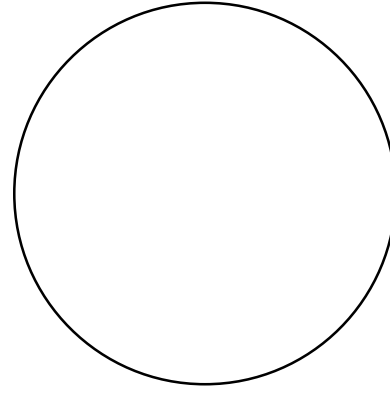
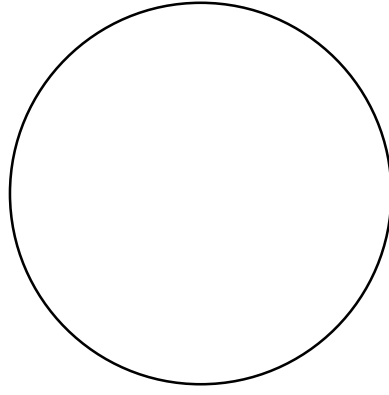
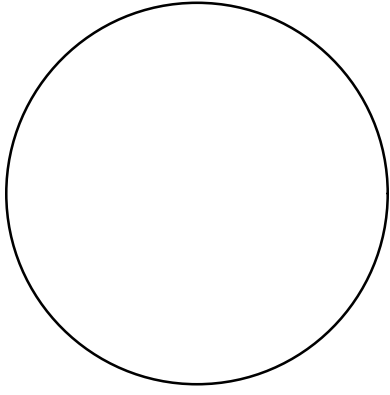
Stop, Yield, Go to God



Stop, Yield, Go to God



Stop, Yield, Go to God



Stop, Yield, Go to God

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
James 4:6

Stop being proud with wrong words and actions.

Think about God’s Word, and yield to the Holy Spirit.

Go to God in prayer, and be humble in resolving conflict.

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Making Plans for the Week

James 4:13-15

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| 7:00-8:00 A.M. | | | | | | | |
| 8:00-9:00 A.M. | | | | | | | |
| 9:00-10:00 A.M. | | | | | | | |
| 10:00-11:00 A.M. | | | | | | | |
| 11:00-12:00 noon | | | | | | | |
| 12:00-1:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |
| 1:00-2:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |

Be mindful of God's plans for you, and humbly submit yourself to them. Consider God's will as you make your plans.

Making Plans for the Week

James 4:13-15

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| 2:00- 3:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |
| 3:00-4:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |
| 4:00-5:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |
| 5:00-6:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |
| 6:00-7:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |
| 7:00-8:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |
| 8:00-9:00 P.M. | | | | | | | |

Be mindful of God's plans for you, and humbly submit yourself to them. Consider God's will as you make your plans.